STD facility. Batala is having MSTD facility.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Batala, which is having MSTD facility is proposed to be linked with STD facility during 1993.

Self-reliance in Telecommunication Equipments

2518. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the World Bank for suggestions on the status of the telecommunications in the country and its future policy of self-reliance in telecommunication equipments;

(b) if so, whether the world body has advised on the issue; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The World Bank has undertaken a study of Indian Telecom Sector focussing upon the broader reform issues, with suggestions of possible approaches to change.

(b) and (c) Suggestions made by World Bank for possible approaches to change in Telecom Sector are given in the Statement.

Statement

An independent "Policy Board" is to be formed, comprising of governmental and non-governmental members with the task of drawing up overall policy frame and monitor its adjustment and implementation.

A "Regulatory Authority" independent of operating units, should be established to oversee operating/purchasing agreements, inter connection practices and where monopoly service elements exist, provide a price regulation function.

The "Operating Units" should be discrete entities, with a corporate structure that allows financial autonomy. These separate regional entitles will have discretion in Technology choices, sourcing of equipment and range of subscriber services offered. They would operate under a licensed regime granted by the "Regulating Authority" and in a manner consistent with overall economic policy and impose tariff schedules in accordance with guidelines imposed by the 'Regulating Authority".

The existing research activities in India's Telecom Network should be viewed as complementary to international technology developments and not as a substitute. Autosomy must be given to Operating Units to choose the type of equipment considered most suitable to fulfil subscriber needs.

The procurement of Telecom equipment should be based on more competitive bidding processes. Tariffs on inputs and final products should be lowered. Both HCL and ITI need to be restructured in conjunction with a dilution of public sector share holding.

Replacement of Telephone Exchange at Narwana in Haryana

2519. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to replace the present faulty Telephone Exchange of Narwana in Haryana where machinery has become obsolete and requires electronic equipment;

(b) if so, by when the electronic equipment is likely to be commissioned there; and

(c) whether Government will consider to review the excessive bills being issued to the consumers on account of the faulty equipment at Narwana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The existing telephone exchange at Narwana was installed during 1988-89. It has not yet served the prescribed useful life.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such problem of excessive billing on account of faulty telephone exchange equipment has come to notice.

Illegal Telephone connections in Northern India

2520. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1209 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have so far received the final report of the CBI on the fraudulent out of turn telephonic sanction orders issued in Northern India during 1992;

(b) if so the action taken by Government in respect thereof indicating details in each case; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether CBI have registered any fresh cases of fraudulent out of turn telephonic sanctions given during 1993 in the country the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The final report of the CBI is awaited. The case is still under investigation and the CBI have been reminded to expedite the investigation.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of Telecom Sector

2521. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that inspite of the increased investment in telecommunication sector and policy initiatives of Government of India lag far behind other countries in terms of availability and level of service;

(b) what steps Government have taken to overcome the problems of slow growth and improve the functioning of the Sector, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that people employed in DOT felt that creation of Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Limited had resulted in a duality in the Organisation as employees of M.T.N.L. got Rs. 100 extra over the DOT salaries; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to settle the unrest resulting from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The growth of the telecom sector is commensurate with the investment. However, to reach the availability and level of service of the developed countries the resources needed are manifold. The Department has now drawn a Perspective Plan upto the year 2000 A.D. to provide telephones on demand and improve services by induction of modern technology equipment in the network. The Planning Commission has approved raising of additional financial resources required for the proposed expansion to overcome the problem of slow growth and improvement in the services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has appointed a committee to go into these aspects.